

### Little-known entomological literature-7

An enquiry from my friend Christopher Nissen as to the authorship of a second (anon and undated) edition of a book entitled *Butterfly and moth collecting* and published by L. Upcott Gill presented me with an intriguing problem, and raises the interesting question as to why the author, clearly named in the first edition, was then dropped by the publishers in later editions (although acknowledged as the author in one of their adverts) and who then, some years later, published again under his name with a different publisher.

The book is by George E. Simms whose name appears on both the cover and the title page of the 1st edition which is entitled *Butterfly and moth collecting: where to search and what to do* and was published by L. Upcott Gill. It is a small octavo paperback of 116 pages, 57 figures, and my copy has 16 pages of adverts. Undated, but known from other sources to be 1892. Listed in Freeman (*British Natural History Books 1492-1900: A Handlist*) as No. 3422 he surprisingly does not mention later editions. Nor does he record the later book by Simms published in 1899. (See below).

There have clearly been several editions of Simms' book, all of which were published as paperbacks priced 1/- (5p), except the fourth when the price had risen to 1/6 (7.5p) and all had coloured covers featuring Lepidoptera but differing in issues and editions. Only the first edition has the author, George E. Simms, named both on the cover and on the title page. The preface is also by "The Author" and the book was published by L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, W.C. Pp [4] + 116 and 57 monochrome Figures. My copy also has 16 pp of adverts, plus those on the end-papers. There is a list of contents but no index.

The second edition (nd) "Revised, Re-arranged and Enlarged" has the title *Butterfly and moth collecting: being practical Hints as Outfit, Most Profitable Hunting Grounds, and Best methods of Capture and Setting*. Published by L. Upcott Gill, Bazaar Buildings, Drury Lane, W.C. (Note change of address) There is a different Preface, this now being by "The Publisher". Pp [8] + 112 and 71 Figures. Simms is not given anywhere as the author. My copy has 18 pp. of adverts. There is no contents list but there is now an extensive index.

Now I would expect an edition of a book calling itself "Revised, re-arranged and enlarged" to follow these claims and the first two are indeed correct, but "enlarged?" Certainly not! Not only is it set in a larger point type but has fewer pages, 104 to the first edition's 116 when you subtract the new and extensive index of eight pages. not present previously.

There would appear to have been some errors when this edition was first produced, for on page 5, Fig. 1 appears as either a clearwing moth or, which is correct, the parasitic wasp *Apanteles glomeratus*. As to the date of publication my copy is undated but is not earlier than 1900, for one of the books advertised is W. J. Lucas's *British Dragonflies (Odonata)* which was

published in that year also by Upcott Gill. The copy in the Cambridge University Library, however, is clearly dated 1901 on the title page as well as having been received by the Library in that year. In my copy the advertising pages quote the title (Butterfly and moth collecting) but not the author while the advertising pages in the 1901 copy specifically state "By G. E. Simms." So are the undated copies earlier or later than 1901? One has to assume that the misprinted Fig 5 would be the first, altered to the correct figure when someone noticed the error, but this is not a certainty.

The third edition (which is in the Entomology Library of the Natural History Museum) appears to be the same as the second, with any errors such as occurred with Fig. 1 corrected, as indeed they were already in my copy and the 1901 copy. I have not seen any later editions but my friend Terry Dillon has informed me he has a fourth. The cover of this is the same as that of the 2nd, but the price is now increased to 1/6 and the publisher is Bazaar, Exchange & Mart, 4-8 Neville Street, London W.C.1. This edition must be later than 1901 and might well date from around 1915.

While the arrangement and extent of included advertising matter is known to vary from copy to copy, on those I have seen, on the verso of the back cover, the 1st edition has Brook's soap, the 2nd & 3rd, Messrs Watkins & Doncaster and the 4th, reported to me by Terry Dillon, Messrs Flatters & Garnett.

In 1899 Dean & Son Ltd. published another work by Simms in their series of *Dean's Practical Guide Books*. The title of this is *Butterflies, moths, and caterpillars: how to catch and keep them*. By G. E. Simms (Author of *Butterfly and moth collecting*). This book, also priced at 1/(5p) is a soft-back of 64 pages and the copy I inspected was in a bright red linen cover with the title in black lettering, which is also on the spine. There are 21 figures, mainly of apparatus, which are rather crudely drawn and look as if they were done by an amateur rather than a professional draughtsman (Simms himself perhaps?) The various chapters mainly describe apparatus, but also deal with the problem of grease, how to search for eggs and how to blow larvae and arrange the collection. It ends with a list of 67 British butterflies giving scientific and English names, places of resort and time of appearance.

This must be the scarcest of Simms' books, for in spite of my advertising for it and making many enquiries, the only two copies I have been able to trace are in the British Library and Cambridge University Library respectively. It also seems odd that two books, which on the face of it are in competition with each other, were on the market at the same time, and one is left to wonder about the reasons that led to the omission of the author's name on the title page of the later editions of his first book.— BRIAN O. C. GARDINER, 2 Highfield Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AL.